

SECRET

JOURNAL

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

Thursday - 19 February 1970

25X1 1. [ ] Met with Senator Albert Gore (D., Tenn.), Chairman of the International Organization and Disarmament Affairs Subcommittee of Senate Foreign Relations, to review plans for the Director's briefing on Monday, 2 March. Senator Gore said that he thought we should cover approximately the same ground covered last year, particularly emphasizing Soviet and Chinese Communist strategic weapons, both offensive and defensive. Senator Gore said he would like us to project our estimates concerning these weapons programs, and enemy intentions regarding them, as far into the future as possible. Gore said that while he could not predict what questions might be asked by Subcommittee members, he saw no need for the Director to include the Middle East in his prepared statement.

25X1 2. [ ] Called on Senator George Murphy (R., Calif.) and offered to brief him on significant current developments. He referred me to his Assistant Richard Spears who handles Armed Services matters for the Senator. I briefed Spears, on a Secret level, on recent developments regarding Soviet weapons and the situation in Middle East and Southeast Asia.

25X1 3. [ ] Representative Peter Frelinghuysen spoke to the Agency's Mid-Career Course, making a special point of the fact that the Foreign Affairs Committee, of which he is a member, was "flying blind" and receiving little or no up-to-date information from its own staff or the executive agencies. Afterwards I told Frelinghuysen we would be glad to try to respond informally to any specific questions he might have in the future.

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25X1 4. [ ] Met with Russ Blandford, Chief Counsel, House Armed Services Committee, whom I briefed on recent developments in Laos and Jordan; indications of Soviet interest in high-powered gas dynamic lasers; and Soviet work on nuclear radiation.

On the question of how best to keep Chairman Rivers briefed on current matters, Blandford indicated he himself had difficulty in keeping in touch with Rivers and in keeping straight in his head various items he receives from the Pentagon, CIA and elsewhere. He therefore proposed that when we have items of major and urgent significance we brief Rivers ourselves. Blandford pointed out however that Rivers is not interested in substantive items but rather in developments that may get press attention or arouse political controversy.

25X1 5. [ ] Met with Frank Slatinshek, House Armed Services Committee staff, whom I briefed on the same items as above and with whom I also raised separately the question of briefing Rivers. Slatinshek indicated that the staff relations with Rivers have become increasingly difficult lately and for this reason it would be best not to rely on the staff channel for keeping him informed of important matters. Like Blandford, Slatinshek said Rivers really is not interested in any developments which do not have political or publicity value.

25X1 6. [ ] Met with Dorothy Fosdick, Staff Director of the Subcommittee on National Security and International Operations of Senate Government Operations Committee, whom I briefed on Laos and the Middle East situation. She said she would pass this on to Senator Jackson upon his return Monday, but that he may wish to be briefed personally on recent developments in the near future.

25X1 7. [ ] Met with Ed Braswell, Chief of Staff, Senate Armed Services Committee, whom I briefed on latest developments in Laos and the Middle East.

25X1A [ ]

cc:  
ER  
O/DDCI

Legislative Counsel

25X1A [ ] Mr. Houston, Mr. Goodwin  
DDI, DDS, DDS&T  
EA/DDP, OPPB

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6. [ ] Robert Hull, Department of State, called to ask for citations to the 1969 CIA Retirement Act amendments. He said they had received commitments on the Senate side that the equivalent House passed Foreign Service amendments would be taken up early in the Second Session. The Foreign Service bill also incorporates the three-month cost-of-living provision which because of the catchup effect would increase the annuities of those retiring up to two months after enactment by 9 percent, which Hull sees as an inducement to speed up retirements.

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7. [ ] Met with Frank Slatinshek, Counsel, House Armed Services Committee, and briefed him on: the Middle East situation, movement in the Atlantic of the Moskva, and themes of some recent articles in Military Thought (an authoritative classified Soviet military publication.)

Mr. Slatinshek asked if we had any information on the reported shake-up in DIA and the intelligence community which Mr. Froehlke is supposed to be directing. I said I would look into this and let him know.

Turning to the MyLai incident, Slatinshek said that the Committee had developed evidence that a number of individuals had learned of the MyLai incident soon after it happened but had not reported it up the line. Slatinshek said it was surprising that nobody in the Agency had picked up this information, and he wondered whether we indeed hadn't known something about it. I said I was quite certain that when the Director testified several months ago before the Committee he was quite honest in saying that he had heard absolutely nothing about it. I said I was sure that none of our officers had any first hand information on the subject, and pointed out that if they had heard vague rumors about something of the sort they would hardly consider it the Agency's responsibility to investigate and verify; however, I said I would check into the question and let him know the results.

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25X1A



25X1C



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3.  Met with Russ Blandford, Chief Counsel, House Armed Services Committee, whom I briefed on recent developments regarding the Soviet Union, Southeast Asia and the Middle East, and who indicated several subjects of interest to the Committee. See Memo for Record for details.

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# Israelis Seize 7-Ton Radar And Airlift It Out of Egypt

By JAMES FERON  
 Special to The New York Times

JERUSALEM, Saturday, Jan. 3—Israeli commandos removed a seven-ton radar installation last Friday night from an Egyptian coastal position at Ras Ghareb on the Gulf of

Suez and brought it back to Israeli-occupied Sinai.

The feat was accomplished with freight-carrying helicopters, reported to have been called in by commando officers when they realized that they had stumbled onto a new Soviet-built base.

The incident has been public knowledge in Israel all week, but reporters were barred from publishing it here or abroad because of military censorship.

It was revealed tonight, however, in The Daily Express of London, presumably from information gained in Israel. Censors then ended the embargo, although the details remain unofficial.

## Commandos Cross Gulf

The incident occurred last Friday night when an Israeli commando unit crossed the gulf and with the assistance of air force jets attacked the coastal unit.

Israeli officials disclosed at the time only that the site had been attacked, that four prisoners had been taken and that the Egyptians had suffered casualties.

A hint of what had been accomplished came the next day. However, when it was reported that the Chief of Staff, Lieut. Gen. Haim Bar-Lev, had met the commandos on their return and complimented them in terms unusual for the taciturn military leader.

He said, "What you did was so complicated and involved and carried out with such precision despite many obstacles that it seems like something from the film world rather than from the world of reality."

Another hint appeared a day later when the popular cartoonist known as Dosh, drawing in Maariv and The Jerusalem Post, provided a graphic description of the raid. He pictured Israel, in the

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form of a young boy, jerking two catches up with fishing poles. One was a cluster of five boats from France and the other was a package, otherwise unidentified, from Egypt.

The rumor had spread so far that Hebrew University students were telling one another today that the commandos had actually stolen two radar sites, one for Israel's friends in Washington.

Although no one in the army spokesman's office will discuss the matter, the commandos were apparently surprised to discover that they had come into possession of a new radar station.

Calling for the freight-carrying helicopters, a bulldozer and acetylene torches, they proceeded to cut the unit in half, load the helicopters and return with their prize.

The four prisoners were said to be Soviet-trained technicians found unarmed in bunkers. Soldiers guarding the unit either fled or were killed.

According to one unconfirmed report, the radar base has been reassembled and is being studied by experts. The installation is believed to be worth a million dollars.

## Speculation on Secrecy

It is believed that the Israelis, in seeking to keep the acquisition a secret, at least as far as newspaper publicity was concerned, wished to avoid encouraging Moscow to react harshly.

The reasoning was that a public embarrassment would lead the Russians to regain lost prestige by providing the Egyptians with even more expensive and modern equipment.

If the incident were kept quiet, Moscow officials might not have to add to Cairo's military potential and might, in fact, begin to reconsider their military assistance program.

Israeli military units have acquired other military prizes, the most notable being the first Soviet-built MIG-21 to

when an Iraqi pilot defected a few years ago.

The six-day war of 1967 produced the first intact Soviet surface-to-air missile system when Israeli armored units racing through the Sinai captured a unit before the Egyptians could destroy it.

Two MIG-17's came into Israeli hands when Syrian pilots landed in a northern Israel airfield, reportedly because of a navigation error. The pilots were returned several weeks ago in a major exchange of prisoners with Syria.

The commando raid that produced the radar equipment was the latest in a series of such action, some of which have reached hundreds of miles into the Upper Nile Valley.

In recent months, Israeli units have concentrated on

Egyptian coastal units below Port Suez. Egyptian boats have been sunk in their bases and other installations destroyed.

One of the most dramatic raids took place on Sept. 9 when an Israeli armored unit crossed the gulf in boats and then raced down the Egyptian coast for 50 miles, destroying many installations.

They re-embarked after 10 hours, returning unscathed to their Sinai base, reports said.